

## CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A writing instrument, comprising:

a barrel of a writing instrument having one end that is adjacent a writing tip of said writing instrument; said barrel having bladders built in to said barrel at said one end of said barrel adjacent said writing tip, said writing tip extending outside of said barrel and past said bladders; and

a pumping mechanism for pumping air into said bladders, said pumping mechanism including an airway passage and a one way air valve for air to enter from said pumping mechanism into said bladders to facilitate better gripping by a user at said one end of said barrel of said writing instrument.

9. (Original) the writing instrument of claim 8 wherein said pumping mechanism includes an integrated clicker and a pump handle.

10. (Original) the writing instrument of claim 8 wherein said pumping mechanism includes a pump handle that is separate from a clicker for said writing instrument.

11. (Previously amended) The writing instrument of claim 8 wherein said bladders are formed of material having a rubber-like property.

12. (Original) the writing instrument of claim 8 wherein said bladders are formed of rubber material.

13. (Original) the writing instrument of claim 8 further comprising a release mechanism located on the side of the writing instrument for releasing excess air.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (new) A writing instrument, comprising:

a barrel of a writing instrument having one end that is adjacent a writing tip of said writing instrument; said barrel having bladders built in to said barrel at said one end of said barrel adjacent said writing tip, said writing tip extending outside of said barrel and past said bladders; and

a pumping mechanism for pumping air into said bladders, said pumping mechanism including an airway passage and a one way air valve for air to enter from said pumping mechanism into said bladders to facilitate better gripping by a user at said one end of said barrel of said writing instrument.